


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2 and 8-12 are pending.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

 Applicants appreciate the interview concerning the differences between the present invention and the prior art. Specifically as to the recitations of claim 6, as amended, reciting that a surface of the projection (14) comprises a recessed part (16) and the recess (15) comprises a projecting part (17), which recessed and project parts (16, 17) extend at an angle to a horizontal line in the plane in which the band packages (5, 6) lie.

The Official Action rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12 under §103 as obvious over MASUDA et al. 5,169,369 in view of TAKAGI (JP-1-247841).

The Official Action rejected claims 9 and 11 under §103 as obvious over MASUDA et al. in view of TAKAGI and in further view of MARUYAMA (EP-421804).

The recitations of amended claim 6 have been incorporated into each of the independent claims. The prior art does not disclose an element wherein a surface of the projection (14) comprises a recessed part (16) and the recess (15) comprises a projecting part (17), yet along where which

recessed and project parts (16, 17) extend at an angle to a horizontal line in the plane in which the band packages (5, 6) lie.

For at least these reasons, the obviousness rejections are not believed to be viable.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

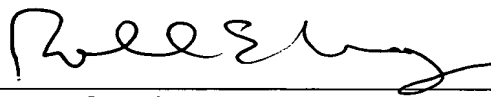
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr